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BIRDS FROM MARATUA ISLAND, OFF
THE EAST COAST OF BORNEO.

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DR. ERIC MJÖBERG, the well-known Swedish naturalist, recently undertook an expedition to Borneo to engage in general collecting. Through the generosity of Dr. Thomas Barbour, certain of the major groups of vertebrates, including the birds, were secured for the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

From February 27 to March 23, 1926, Dr. Mjöberg was on Maratua Island, where he secured 112 birds belonging to 16 species, 7 of which we describe as new. Although Dr. Mjöberg neglected to note the date of capture on the labels of his specimens, nevertheless we have been able to deduce the approximate date by tracing the sequence of the original numbers.

So far as we have been able to ascertain, no birds have been collected previously on Maratua.

There is practically no information to be had concerning Maratua, which lies a short distance off the east coast of Borneo. Dr. Mjöberg writes that it is a horseshoe-shaped coral island, heavily forested, and that the surface is covered with sharp limestone blocks alternating with depressions in the ground. Near by is a small island, Kakaban, where no specimens were secured.

The collection, which is rich in novelties, furnishes an interesting field for speculation. Several of the species that we record or describe are identical with, or closely allied to, birds from the Sulu Islands, while others that have no representatives at all in the Sulus are clearly related to Bornean species, but differ so trenchantly that we describe them as specifically distinct.

Megapodius cumingii tolutilis, subsp. nov.

One adult female.

Type.—No. 235861, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, adult female, from Maratua Island. Collected March, 1926, by E. Mjöberg.

Characters.—Similar to *M. c. cumingii* Dillwyn, but darker; much more brownish, less olive above; under parts much darker gray.

Measurements.—Wing, 230; tail, 76; tarsus, 64; bill from base to forehead, 28.

Remarks.—We fully agree with Riley (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 64, 1924, art. 16, p. 6) that *Megapodius cumingii* is badly in need of revision. Our available material is wholly inadequate, but scanty as it is, it indicates the existence of more than one island form in the Philippines. Riley (op. cit.) has already recognized *M. gilbertii* Gray for the Celebesian form of *cumingii*, and some years ago Sharpe (P. Z. S. 1875, p. 111) pointed out that the plate of *M. cumingii* (P. Z. S. 1851, pl. 39) was drawn from the bird from Labuan Island, which he named *lowi*, restricting *cumingii* to the Philippines.

Caloenas nicobarica (Linné).

One male; two females.

The male is peculiar in having extensive white bases to the primaries; on the third this color extends along the outer web to about the point reached by the primary coverts. A female from Lighthouse Island, Apo Reef, P. I., in the M. C. Z. collection exhibits this peculiarity to a lesser extent.

Numenius phaeopus variegatus (Scopoli).

Three males; one female.

Actitis hypoleucos (Linné).

Two males; two females.

Demiegretta sacra (Gmelin).

Two females; one in normal, the other in white plumage.

These specimens do not differ from examples from Java and the Philippines. There is a possibility that one or more races of the Reef Heron may be recognized on a basis of size, but considerable material will be required to determine this and to allocate the numerous synonyms correctly.

Tanygnathus lucionensis horrisonus, subsp. nov.

Thirteen specimens, both sexes.

Type.—No. 235875, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, adult male, from Maratua Island. Collected February–March, 1926, by E. Mjöberg.

Characters.—Similar to *T. l. lucionensis* (Linné) but much larger; females with more blue on the head and with the shoulders blacker, thus less differentiated from the males than is the case in true *lucionensis*. Similar also to, and of the same size as, *T. l. talautensis* Meyer & Wigelsw., but sides of head green instead of blue; back and under parts greener and less yellowish.

MEASUREMENTS.

No.	Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill from cere
235875	Male	202	134	21	34
235876	"	192	125	22	31
235877	"	198	131	21	32
235878	"	196	125	19	32
235879	"	197	120	21	33
235887	"	193	133	22	33
235880	Female	191	122	20	28
235881	"	190	123	19	29
235882	"	190	123	20	30
235883	"	188	122	20	29
235884	"	189	128	21	30
235885	"	190	131	21	30
235886	"	185	118	20	29

Remarks.—*Tanygnathus salvadorii* Ogilvie-Grant (Ibis, 1896, p. 562, Mantanani I., northwestern Borneo) is smaller than *lucionensis* and lacks the black shoulders, but is best regarded as a form of the latter. *Tanygnathus heterurus* Salvadori (Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, vol. 45, 1912, p. 328, origin not definitely known) remains unique and differs from all other known species of the genus in having the under surface of the tail "olivaceo-rufescente" instead of yellowish green.

Muscitrea grisola grisola (Blyth).

Nine specimens: adults of both sexes, and one immature.

Compared with a series from Java, the Maratua Island birds are quite the same in color and size. The bill averages a trifle larger but this difference is altogether too slight to be of any real significance.

Hypothymis aeria, sp. nov.

Ten specimens: adults of both sexes, and one immature male.

Type.—No. 235918, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, adult male, from Maratua Island. Collected March, 1926, by E. Mjöberg.

Characters.—A distinct species; the male without a black occipital patch and with all the feathers of the crown normal; no black chin spot; a narrow black jugular collar; in color bright blue, with a white belly.

Color.—Adult male. A narrow black frontal band; remainder of upper parts Helvetia blue; throat, chest, and upper breast Helvetia blue, a narrow black crescent between throat and chest; under tail-coverts and belly bluish white, gradually merging into color of chest on lower breast; wings and tail dusky, edged with blue slightly deeper in tone than the blue of the back; bend of wing blue; under wing-coverts white; bill and feet black.

Adult female. Similar to the male but somewhat duller and grayer blue, and lacking the black jugular collar.

MEASUREMENTS.

No.	Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill to base of forehead
235918	Male	75	72	17	15
235919	"	77	73	17	16
235920	"	76	73	18	15
235922	"	73	70	18	15
235923	"	76	75	18	16
235924	"	76	74	18	15
235925	Female	72	70	17	14.5
235927	"	71	69	17	15

Remarks.—The male of the Maratua Island species differs at once from the male of any of the races of *azurea* in not having a black occipital patch, in all the feathers of the crown being normal, and in the black jugular crescent being narrower and less velvety. The female differs from females of *azurea* in having a blue, not a brownish back. From species that in the male lack the black occipital patch, such as *abbotti*, *rowleyi*, and *puella*, the new species differs in having the belly white.

Lalage nigra mitifica Bangs.

One immature male. Wing, 21; tail, 67; bill to base of forehead, 18.

This one specimen, in plumage not unlike an adult female, is large and has a gray back, in both respects agreeing with Philippine birds.

Microtarsus hodiernus, sp. nov.

Seven adults, both sexes.

Type.—No. 235902, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, adult male, from Maratua Island. Collected February–March, 1926, by E. Mjöberg.

Description.—Head all round and throat shining black, with greenish reflections on crown and purplish on throat; upper parts, wing-coverts, and outer webs of secondaries slate color; rump and upper tail-coverts slate gray, the long feathers of rump with black bases, which show through as black mottling when the feathers are disturbed; chest and breast slate color; belly and under tail-coverts pale slate gray; primaries and their coverts wholly black; under wing-coverts slate gray; tail slate gray at base and at tip, black in the middle; under side of three outer rectrices slate color.

Size large, larger than in *M. atriceps atriceps* (Temm.) of India and the Sunda Islands. (The wing in birds from India and Borneo measured by us, varies from 76 to 78 mm.).

MEASUREMENTS.

No.	Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill to base of forehead
235902	Male	82	70	16	17
235903	"	81	70	17	16
235904	"	85	68	17	16
235905	"	84	67	17	16
235906	Female	83	73	17	16
235907	"	83	71	17	17
235908	"	85	76	17	16

Remarks.—At first sight the form of Maratua Island appears so different in color from *Microtarsus atriceps atriceps* (Temm.) as to need no comparison with that bird, but it must be borne in mind that *atriceps*, in a part of its Indian range only, shows a color variant—*M. cinereoventris* (Blyth)—in which gray replaces the yellowish of breast, upper abdomen, hind neck, and sometimes the upper back; however, the rump, the upper and under tail-coverts, under wing-coverts, tail, and wings remain with the yellowish of the normal plumage. Possibly, therefore, the species *atriceps* carries a latent tendency to vary toward gray, and our wholly black and gray island form, with no yellow whatsoever anywhere in its plumage, is not so fundamentally different as it appears.

The new form differs from *M. chalconcephalus* (Temm.), of Java, in larger size and much darker colors, and in having the tail tipped with gray instead of white.

Kittacincla barbouri, sp. nov.

Thirteen specimens: adults of both sexes, and one immature female.

Type.—No. 235959, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, adult male, from Maratua Island. Collected March, 1926, by E. Mjöberg.

Characters.—Similar to *K. stricklandi* (Motl. and Dillw.) of northern Borneo, and with a white crown as in that species, but much larger, with much longer tarsus and bigger foot, and with the tail *wholly black*. The female is similar to the male but smaller, and the black portions of the plumage are duller, less glossy black.

MEASUREMENTS.

No.	Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill to base of forehead
235959	Male	108	149	32	23
235961	"	106	144	31	22
235962	"	105	150	32	23
235964	"	112	142	31	21
235966	"	105	143	31	22
235967	Female	98	114	29	21
235968	"	96	115	30	21
235969	"	94	114	29	19
235970	"	96	112	29	20
235971	"	100	112	30	21

Remarks.—The shama of Maratua Island, besides being much larger than *stricklandi*, differs from it conspicuously in having the three outer pairs of rectrices black instead of white. The one immature female (M. C. Z. No. 235972), however, has some slight grayish-white freckling on the three pairs of outer rectrices, and one adult male (M. C. Z. No. 235966) has similar freckling on all three outer feathers on one side of the tail and on one feather on the other side. This condition of the tail in two examples cer-

tainly suggests reversion to a white-tailed ancestor and indicates that the black tail of the island form is a recently acquired character.

It gives us much pleasure to name this fine shama for our colleague, Dr. Thomas Barbour, to whose generosity and foresight the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy is indebted for the collection from Maratua Island.

Artamus leucorhynchos leucorhynchos (Linné).

Three adults—one male and two females.

Cinnyris sperata (Linné).

One adult male; two adult females.

Comparison with a series of ten adult males from the Philippines reveals no characters on which we can base a separation. In the absence of Philippine females suitable for comparison, we are unable to comment on the two adults of that sex sent in by Mjöberg from Maratua Island.

Cinnyris hasselti (Temm.) of Borneo is a very different species and requires no comparison.

Anthreptes malacensis mjobergi, subsp. nov.

Twenty-eight specimens: adults and immatures, both sexes.

Type.—No. 235952, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, adult male, from Maratua Island. Collected March, 1926, by E. Mjöberg.

Characters.—Adult male: similar to that of *A. m. borneensis* Riley, of northern Borneo, but much larger; cheeks and postocular region without a trace of olivaceous but nearly concolor with throat; maroon on wing-coverts and scapulars deeper and more extended; yellow of under parts more intense. Similar also to *A. m. wigelsworthi* Hartert, of the Sulu Islands, but slightly larger; much brighter yellow below; and lacking the broad olive edges of the secondaries. Adult female: similar to the female of *borneensis*, but larger, and with the median under parts more brilliantly yellow.

MEASUREMENTS.

No.	Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill to base of forehead
235930	Male	75	49	18	22
235935	"	70	50	19	21
235943	"	71	51	19	21
235947	"	73	53	19	22
235948	"	71	52	19	21
235950	"	72	51	20	23
235951	"	71	53	20	21
235952 (type)	"	74	52	19.5	21
235953	"	70	53	19	20
235955	"	71	51	18.5	21
235929	Female	66	48	19	20
235934	"	66	46	19	19.5
235946	"	66	45	18	20

Remarks.—One male taken by Mjöberg on Pulu Derawan, an island situated between Maratua and the main island of Borneo, is smaller than birds from Maratua, and agrees wholly in color with Bornean examples.

In six males of *borneensis* from northern Borneo, the wing varies from 64 to 67; and in one female it is 61.

Aplonis panayensis suggrandis, subsp. nov.

Seven specimens, both sexes, all adult.

Type.—No. 235888, Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, adult male, from Maratua Island. Collected March, 1926, by E. Mjöberg.

Characters.—Similar in color to *A. p. strigatus* (Horsf.), of Tenasserim, Java, Sumatra, and Borneo, but much larger with a much heavier bill. Similar also to *A. p. panayensis* (Scopoli), of the Philippines, but larger.

MEASUREMENTS.

No.	Sex	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Bill to base of forehead
235888	Male	113	78	23	25
235889	"	114	77	24	25
235890	"	111	76	25	24
235891	"	113	75	24	25
235892	Female	109	73	24	25
235893	"	115	81	24	25
235894	"	111	74	24	25

Remarks.—*Aplonis panayensis* is a species of wide distribution in India, Burma, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Philippines, and many of the smaller islands. It has a marked tendency to break up into island races whose main criteria are size, color characters being noticeable in only two or three races. The form here described is one of the larger ones. It is larger than *affinis* (*Calornis affinis* A. Hay, Journ. As. Soc. Bengal, vol. 15, 1846, p. 36, Tipperah), whose wing measurement, according to Stresemann (Nov. Zool., vol. 20, 1913, p. 375–377), ranges from 103 to 109 (average 105.9), but it is smaller than *leptorrhynchus* (*Aplonis panayensis leptorrhynchus* Stresemann, loc. cit., p. 375) from Pini Island, whose wing measurement varies from 111 to 116. To neither of these, of course, can it bear any close genetic relationship.

Mjöberg took one female on Pulu Derawan Island. This specimen, with a wing of 107, while smaller than examples from Maratua Island, is so much larger in all particulars than birds from Borneo that we refer it to our new form.

Chibia bracteata suluensis (Hartert).

Three adult males.

This drongo, of which Mjöberg sent three males from Maratua

Island, is quite different from *C. b. borneensis* (Sharpe), and appears very close to, if not identical with, *suluensis* Hartert (Nov. Zool., vol. 9, 1902, p. 441) of the Sulu Islands, which differs from *borneensis* in having longer bill and tail and slightly longer wing.

Our three skins afford the following measurements:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Bill to base of forehead</i>
235895	Male	157	137	38
235896	"	149	126	39.5
235897	"	151	136	38

These figures do not exactly agree with the measurements given by Hartert (*supra*), but the difference is so slight that it might easily be due to the personal equation.

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